



Proclamation

Presented

In Recognition of the E Ola Pono Campaign

WHEREAS, the issues of Bullying, Cyber-bullying, and creating Safe Schools are central to fostering a positive learning environment in which students can focus on achieving academic success; and

WHEREAS, it has been reported that between 15-25% of students experience bullying with some frequency, and 15-20% report that they bully others with some frequency (Nansel et al, 2001); and

WHEREAS, the effects of bullying include increased rates of truancy, drop-out, alcohol and tobacco use, as well as higher chances of criminal involvement by age 24 (Olweus, 1993; Pollack, 1998; Nansel et al, 2003); and

WHEREAS, the cultural landscape of Hawai'i offers rich resources from which to draw upon to counteract these alarming statistics, most notably the concept of '*pono*,' an ideal so central to Hawai'i's history that it can be found in our State motto: '*Ua mau ke ea o ka 'āina i ka pono*,' which has been liberally translated as, '*The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness*'; and

WHEREAS, efforts are currently underway to decrease bullying, increase positive behavior, and emphasize personal responsibility by focusing the timeless tradition of '*pono*' through the *E Ola Pono* Campaign; and

WHEREAS, the *E Ola Pono* Campaign has engaged students and schools throughout the state to promote **student-driven** campaigns at individual school campuses that, 'put *pono* and peace into action,' through programs and projects that incorporate technology, art, service-learning, and peer mentorship; and

WHEREAS, these efforts show tremendous potential to achieve a positive culture of respect and harmony in Hawai'i schools, within which the humanity of each child is honored;

THEREFORE, I, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, Governor, and **I, BRIAN SCHATZ**, Lieutenant Governor of the State of Hawai'i, do hereby proclaim March 2011, as

“SAFE AND PONO SCHOOLS MONTH”

in Hawai'i, to support the efforts of students and educators to realize the promise of *pono* in every institution of learning throughout the Aloha State and our global community.

DONE at the State Capitol, in the Executive Chambers, Honolulu, State of Hawai'i, this third day March, 2011.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor, State of Hawai'i

BRIAN SCHATZ
Lt. Governor, State of Hawai'i